

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, TU, GW

SUBJECT: FRG AND TURKISH TRADE UNIONISTS MEET ON
TURKISH WORKERS IN FRG

REF: BONN 19824

1. SUMMARY: THE PERMANENT GERMAN-TURKISH TRADE UNION
COMMISSION MET NOVEMBER 15-19 IN MUNICH TO DISCUSS
PROBLEMS OF TURKISH ASSOCIATION WITH EC. MAJOR TOPIC
OF DISCUSSION WAS, NATURALLY, STATUS OF TURKISH WORK-
ERS IN FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAD OF FRG DELEGATION, DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
KARL SCHWAB, OBSERVED THAT HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRG
WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN 1977. FOR THIS REASON, THE
FREEZE ON RECRUITMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS (INCLUDING
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TURKS) WOULD HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED. NEVERTHELESS, THE

DGB DELEGATION DID AGREE TO PUSH THE FRG IN SUPPORT OF THE TURKISH DEMANDS, VOICED BY HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (TUERK-IS). TUNC TOOK THE POSITION THAT ANY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE EC WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSITION THAT TURKISH WORKERS NOW IN THE FRG WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS WORKERS FROM FULL MEMBER EC STATES.

3. SPECIFIC MATTERS OF WORK AND RESIDENCE PERMITS, CHILD ALLOWANCES REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, AND PENSIONS FOR TURKISH WORKERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. TUERK-IS AND DGB DID AGREE THAT TURKISH WORKERS SHOULD PROTECT THEIR PENSION CLAIMS FROM DUBIOUS ARRANGEMENTS WITH FINANCE COMPANIES. (SOME CREDIT INSTITUTES HAVE REPORTEDLY CONCOCTED SCHEMES, WHEREBY AN INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN WORKER WHO CANNOT WAIT THE NORMAL 8-10 MONTHS FOR A TAX REFUND IS ADVANCED A PERCENTAGE OF ANY PENDING REFUND IN RETURN FOR SIGNING OVER HIS CLAIM TO THE INSTITUTE. SOME USE THE SAME METHOD IN PROVIDING "ADVANCES" ON THE REFUND OF THE WORK CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PENSION FUNDS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED UPON RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.)

4. COMMENT: SCHWAB COMMENTED TO LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE TALKS, IN GENERAL, WENT VERY WELL AND THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THE TURKS UNDERSTOOD THE FRG'S PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES.
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